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Novitates Zoologicae.

London.

<http://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/bibliography/3882>

v. 37 (1931-32): <http://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/22933>

Page(s): Title Page, Page 149, Page 150, Page 151, Page 152, Page 153, Page 154, Page 155

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NOVITATES ZOOLOGICAE.

A Journal of Zoology

IN CONNECTION WITH THE TRING MUSEUM.



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VOL. XXXVII, 1931-32

(WITH FOUR PLATES.)

ISSUED AT THE ZOOLOGICAL MUSEUM, TRING.

PRINTED BY HAZELL, WATSON & VINEY, LTD., LONDON AND AYLESBURY

1931-1932

NOTES ON *SYNTOMIDAE* (*AMATIDAE*) WITH DESCRIPTIONS
OF NEW SPECIES.

BY LORD ROTHSCHILD, F.R.S., Ph.D.

WHEN I first arranged the *Syntomidae* in the Tring Museum I confined myself to the description of the large number of new species in the collection and did not publish any critical observations. In this paper, written while incorporating the large accessions received since 1912, I propose to draw attention to a few errors in nomenclature, etc., as well as describe some new forms. I will begin with the American groups.

1. *Orcynia calcarata* (Walk.).

The Rev. A. Miles Moss has captured and brought home several specimens of a large burrowing wasp which is evidently the model for this fine mimetic insect.

The resemblance is most apparent when both the moth and the wasp have the wing two-thirds folded.

2. *Pseudosphex ichneumonea* Herr.-Sch.

In volume I of the *Catalogue of Lepidoptera Phalaenae* Sir George Hampson has put as synonyms of *P. ichneumonea*, *P. crabronis* Druce and *P. polybioides* Burm., and the series in the British Museum when I was working on this group from 1909 to 1912 consisted of a number of examples of an insect agreeing with Druce's type of *crabronis*, also in the collection. When working on *Pseudosphex* lately I was puzzled by finding another species with yellow legs among my Tring series and also a third species near to *noverca* Schaus. I then looked up Herrich-Schäffer's drawing and I found a figure agreeing in appearance with *noverca* Schaus and *novercida* Kaye and not in the remotest resembling *crabronis* Druce. I then looked up the British Museum series once more and found that Sir George Hampson had separated in the collection *polybioides* Burm. from the series placed under *ichneumonea*. Through the courtesy of Professor Kuntzen of the Berlin Museum I obtained excellent photographs of the type (or rather what was left of it) of Herrich-Schäffer's *P. ichneumonea*. Fortunately the wings are perfectly preserved. It was evident that this species was identical with either *noverca* or *novercida*. Mr. Kaye, when describing *novercida*, points out that vein 2 of the forewing arises just before the angle of the cell while in *noverca* this vein arises much before the angle of the cell. This is clearly visible on the photograph and proves that *ichneumonea* is the same as *novercida* Kaye. On examining *crabronis* Druce it is at once apparent that, besides its much larger size and different coloration, vein 2 of the forewing arises further from the angle of the cell than in *ichneumonea* = *novercida* and therefore is not only a different species from *ichneumonea*, but is the connecting link between the two sections. The correct nomenclature of the 4 species of *Pseudosphex* which come in question as regards Herrich-Schäffer's *ichneumonea* therefore is as follows: *novercida* Kaye = *ichneumonea* Herr.-Sh.; *polybioides* Burm. and *noverca* Schaus are two

quite distinct species both from true *ichneumonea* H.-S. and *crabronis* Druce and *ichneumonea* Hmps. must stand as *crabronis* Druce.

Dr. Draudt, in *Seitz, Grossschmetterlinge der Erde*, has followed Hampson in calling *crabronis* Druce and *polybioides* Burm. *ichneumonea*, and he figures what he calls the typical form, but if the figure is exact he has figured a fifth quite distinct species. In his text he says that "*ichneumonea* (= *polybioides* Burm.)," whereas Burmeister distinctly states his *polybioides* has yellow legs, whereas *ichneumonea*, *crabronis*, and *noverca* have black legs. The model of *noverca*, *polybioides*, and *ichneumonea* is the wasp *Polybia nigra* Sauss.

3. *Pseudosphex parallela* sp. nov.

♂. Similar in colour and markings to *ichneumonea* and *noverca*, but vein 2 of forewing arises about halfway between the origin of this vein in the first and second of these species; forecoxae white; male valve edged with white; underside of first segment whitish; legs black, tarsi greyish rufous; antennæ, thorax, and abdomen above black; forewing yellowish vitreous, in basal two-thirds whitish; costal two-fifths densely clothed with smoky grey-brown scales; hindwing yellowish vitreous.

Expanse 29 mm.

Hab.—Santa Catherina, 2 ♂♂.

4. *Pseudosphex polistes uniformis* subsp. nov.

♂. Differs from *p. polistes* in being much darker on the body, less white beneath and the abdomen above being uniform dark brown without the light edges to the segments.

Hab.—1 ♂ Cuyaba, Matto-Grosso, received from Paul Zobrys.

5. *Pseudosphex caurensis paraensis* subsp. nov.

♂. Differs from *C. caurensis* below in the coxae being less white and the white band beyond the white border of the ♂ valve being absent; the legs are paler yellow; above the wings are paler, more uniform and yellowish; abdomen more uniform, basal half darker chestnut, outer half more extended black.

Hab.—1 ♂ Para, ex coll. Miles Moss.

6. *Pseudosphex crabronis venezuelensis* subsp. nov.

Differs from *C. crabronis* in the strong rosy wash of the wings and in having a white dot on the ♂ valve below.

Hab.—La Vuelta, Caura River, May 1903 (S. Klages coll.).

7. *Sphecosoma trinitatis* Rothsch.

The wasp model of this species is a species of *Polybia* near *P. fasciata* Sauss. collected by S. Klages with the mimic.

8. *Sphecosoma curta* sp. nov.

♀. Whole insect short and rounded.

Pectus and head yellow; legs orange-red, hind tibia black behind; patagia yellow; thorax black, with 4 yellow spots; antennae crimson, tipped with black;

abdomen, basal segment yellow, rest crimson, second and third segments edged with black, rest edged with dull blue; wings hyaline, bases yellow, narrow costal, terminal, and inner margins black, a subcostal band of crimson occupying central five-sixths of length of wing.

Expanse 28 mm.; forewing 12.5 mm.

Hab.—Yahuarmayo, S.E. Peru, 1,200 feet, February–March 1912 (H. and C. Watkins coll.).

9. *Sphecosoma deceptrix* Hmpsn.

The wasp model of this species is *Polybia fasciata* Sauss. (M. G. Palmer coll.).

10. *Sphecosoma flaveolum* sp. nov.

♂. Palpi, forehead, legs below, and underside of abdomen bright yellow; legs above pale orange; antennae brown-black, apical one-third chocolate brown; basal half of patagia yellow, apical half black; tegulae and thorax yellow streaked with black; abdomen, first 2 segments dusky yellow, rest black edged with yellow; wings hyaline yellowish, dusky yellow at base and along inner margin of forewing, also between costa and subcosta of forewing.

Expanse 30 mm.; length of forewing 13 mm.

Hab.—San Esteban, Venezuela, June 1909, Corosita, Caura River, June 1904, 3 ♂♂ (S. M. Klages coll.).

The ♂ from Corosita has the half of forewing above the median nervure much infuscated.

11. *Homoeocera multipuncta* sp. nov.

♂. Pectus white; legs black, tibiae with indistinct white dots; abdomen and ♂ valve black, valve underneath filled with a white flocky substance, abdomen with 6 white dots below; antennae black; head and thorax velvety black with some metallic blue dots; white spots on the patagia, abdomen black with blue dots and three rows of white patches, one row has four white spots, other two three.

Wings hyaline with black bases, and black margins expanded at tornus of forewing and from tornus to vein 2 in hindwing.

Length of forewing 20 mm. Expanse 46 mm.

Hab.—Cuyaba, Matto Grosso (bought from Paul Zobrys), type; 2 ♂♂ Valencia, Venezuela; 1 ♂ Buenavista, East Bolivia, 750 m., August 1906–April 1907; 1 ♂ Santiago del Estero, East Bolivia, 1905–6 (J. Steinbach coll.).

12. *Homoeocera affinis* sp. nov.

♀. Very similar to *crassa* Feld., but differs in the edges of the abdominal segments being narrower and white, NOT yellow, also the forewing has a triangular black apex which is entirely absent in *crassa*.

Length of forewing 17 mm. Expanse 39 mm.

Hab.—Merida, Venezuela (Briceno coll.).

13. *Autochloris consociata* Walk.

Sir George Hampson has placed this as a synonym of *bijuncta* Walk. but it is quite distinct, having no signs of the lateral white spots on the first abdominal

segment and having the last THREE segments of the abdomen yellow (♀) or red (♂), while *bijuncta* has only the last two so coloured.

14. **Autochloris flavosignata** sp. nov.

♀. Nearest allied to *caunus* Cram., but differs in having white spots on the patagia and a large patch of dark buff with a sooty spot in it each side of the first abdominal segment.

Length of forewing 22 mm. Expanse 50 mm.

Hab.—British Guiana.

15. **Autochloris nigrerior** sp. nov.

♂. Allied to *bijuncta*, but smaller and the black borders to the wings wider ; differs also in having white shoulder-spots and a yellow frons ; abdomen black with lateral white spots on first segment and blue ones on the second and third segments ; the rest of abdomen black except the outer edges of abdominal tuft which are red.

Length of forewing 18 mm. Expanse 40.5 mm.

Hab.—Arouary (17/6/1887).

16. **Autochloris cuma** Druce.

Sir George Hampson, Dr. Draudt, and others have united with *cuma* a fairly common and widespread insect which has nothing to do with it. The latter when seen side by side with true *cuma* is strikingly larger, the black margins of the wings are much wider and the red patches of the abdomen in two of the three subspecies are much more conspicuous. This species has no name :

17. **Autochloris magnifica** sp. nov.

♂. Allied closely to *A. cuma*, but much larger ; differs from *cuma* in the very much wider black margins to the wings and in the other black markings being larger, in the underside of abdomen being entirely black except the anal valves, in the hindlegs being brown outside and golden yellow inside, in the two subdorsal patches on the first and second abdominal segments being buff not white, and in there being on the third to the seventh abdominal segments a row of dorso-lateral large wedge-shaped crimson patches, while in *cuma* the underside of the abdomen is crimson from the fourth to the seventh segments, the red colour running half up the side ; in both species the anal segment is red in the male.

♀ differs in the hindlegs being black and the centre of the anal segment being black.

Length of forewing, ♀ *cuma*, 22 mm. ; ♂ *magnifica*, 27 mm. Expanse ♀ *cuma*, 50 mm. ; *magnifica* ♂ 62 mm., ♀ 66 mm.

Hab.—Santa Cruz de la Sierra, East Bolivia, 1905–6 (J. Steinbach coll.).

18. **Autochloris magnifica reducta** subsp. nov.

♀. Differs from *m. magnifica* in the dorso-lateral buff patches on the first two abdominal segments being reduced to two buff dots and the red dorso-lateral patches on the third to seventh segments being reduced to lunulate spots. The anal valves are black with lateral red patches.

Hab.—Bolivia (Garlepp coll.).

19. **Autochloris magnifica rufipes** subsp. nov.

♂. Differs from *m. magnifica* in the hindleg having the whole tibia above scarlet, the tarsus pale brown and the femur black; it has the red dorso-lateral patches much larger and they run down on to the underside of the abdomen.

Hab.—Chanchamayo, Peru (A. Miles Moss coll.).

20. **Autochloris ectomelaena** Hamps.

♂. Similar to *enagrus* Cram., but wings have narrower black borders; the underside has broad white margin to the ♂ valve and three bright orange bands to the last last three segments and laterally some indications of crimson inter-segmental lines.

Length of forewing 20 mm. Expanse 46 mm.

Hab.—1 ♂ Itamarity, Narrows, Amazon (A. Miles Moss coll.), 2 ♂♂ Amazon (Felder coll.).

21. **Autochloris flavicosta** sp. nov.

♀. Pectus black; antennae black; head and thorax black with metallic blue spots; first segment of abdomen above whitish buff, rest black, outer half of seventh and anal segments and the margin of the preceding one deep orange, abdomen below black, edge of first segment white, anal segment orange; legs black; wings hyaline yellow, hyaline white below median vein of hindwing; costal area, and half inner area of forewing orange, apex broadly black, a narrow black terminal border from vein 4 to tornus, hindwing with narrow black border expanded in tornal area.

Length of forewing 18 mm. Expanse 41 mm.

Hab.—1 ♀ Paramba, Ecuador, January–May 1897 (W. Rosenberg coll.).

22. **Autochloris buchwaldi** sp. nov.

♂. Pectus white; legs black with white spots on coxae; ♂ valve edged with a blue followed by a white line, abdomen black, anus yellow; head metallic blue; thorax black; first abdominal segment orange buff, rest of abdomen black with blue intersegmental lines; anal segment and tuft orange buff with basal blue line; forewing hyaline yellow, with black borders widely expanded at apex and tornus; subcostal area dirty yellow, two streaks at base of inner margin orange; hindwing hyaline white, with black borders widely expanded at tornus.

Length of forewing 18 mm. Expanse 41 mm.

Hab.—Quevedo, Ecuador (v. Buchwald coll.).

23. **Sarosa pseudohelotes** sp. nov.

♂. Differs from *helotes* in having the ♂ valve on underside of base of abdomen black with white patch on each side of it, while this valve in *helotes* is entirely glistening white, in the tarsi being uniformly deep brown, not orange, and the patagia wholly black.

Length of forewing, ♂ 22 mm., ♀ 26 mm. Expanse, ♂ 50 mm., ♀ 58 mm.

Hab.—1 ♂ type, 2 ♀♀, Sto. Domingo, Carabaya, 6,000 feet, July and December 1902 (dry and wet season); 2 ♂♂ La Oroya, Rio Inambari, S.E. Peru, 3,100 feet, March 1905 (wet season) (G. Ockenden coll.); 1 ♂ Paramba, Ecuador, 3,500 feet, May 1897 (dry season) (W. Rosenberg coll.).

24. *Sarosa pseudohelotes intensior* subsp. nov.

♂♀. Differ from *p. helotes* in the colour of the thorax and body being orange scarlet, not dark yellow, and in the dark borders of the wings being much wider, and the legs uniformly dark umber-brown.

Hab.—1 ♂, 1 ♀ Las Quiguas, near San Esteban, Venezuela (S. M. Klages coll.).

25. *Gymnelia flavicapilla* sp. nov.

♂. Antennae black; pectus white; palpi yellow; frons yellow with blue spot; coxae inside buff, outside blue, tibiae inside creamy white, outside black, tarsi brown, inside golden; ♂ valve buff edged with white, rest of underside of abdomen buff; patagia black ringed with yellow and blue in centre; tegulae black, inner one-third orange; thorax black with four blue spots; abdomen black with blue spots and segments narrowly edged with dull orange, a wider buff edging on second segment; wings hyaline, apex on forewing and tornus on hindwing black, basal half of subcostal area vitreous; a blue dot at base of forewing.

Length of forewing 14 mm. Expanse 32 mm.

Hab.—1 ♂ San Esteban, Venezuela, June 1909 (S. M. Klages coll.); 1 ♂ Venezuela (Mocquerys coll.).

26. *Gymnelia felderi* sp. nov.

♂. Frons, palpi and antennae black; pectus white, legs black with blue patches; ♂ valve basal half black, apical half white; underside of abdomen black; vertex and patagia metallic greenish blue; thorax and tegulae black, with elongated greenish blue metallic spots; abdomen black with metallic greenish blue lateral spots, first three segments with yellow interspaces; wings hyaline yellow, apex and tornus black, basal half of costi-subcostal area orange yellow, apical half black.

Length of forewing 18 mm. Expanse 42 mm.

Hab.—Amazon (Felder coll.).

27. *Gymnelia peculiaris* sp. nov.

♀. This species is unlike any other of the genus, but in coloration is nearest *ethodaea* Druce. Pectus, legs and underside of legs yellow; frons buff, palpi yellow with black tips; hindlegs with outer side of tibia and most of tarsus black; head black; patagia black with blue spots; thorax black with blue spot and some orange marks; abdomen brick red, with black bands and subdorsal rows of metallic silvery blue spots; apical half of anal segment black; wings long and narrow, hyaline yellow, base orange, a black border all round, apex of forewing broadly black, an oval discocellular black patch; antennae black.

Length of forewing 15 mm. Breadth of forewing 6 mm. Expanse 33 mm.

Hab.—Mapiri, Bolivia.

28. *Gymnelia abdominalis* sp. nov.

♀. Pectus, legs, head, antennae, thorax, and first four segments of abdomen black; tibiae marked with metallic blue; patagia, base of tegulae, base of forewing and lateral spots in basal half of abdomen metallic blue, outer half of abdomen bright orange-yellow; wings hyaline white, broadly bordered with

black; apex of forewing (about outer fourth of wing) black; tornal area of hindwing largely black, with a vitreous spot.

Length of forewing 20 mm. Expanse 45 mm.

Hab.—Pebas, Amazon (M. de Mathan coll.).

There is in the Tring Museum a ♂ out of the Felder collection labelled "Cuba, Gundlach"!!! which only differs in the legs and underside being sooty brown and the ♂ valve having a whitish border.

29. *Mallodeta simplex* sp. nov.

♂. Pectus white; legs, antennae, head, thorax, and abdomen black; wings hyaline white; forewing with narrow black margins expanded at apex and apex of vein 2, subcostal area yellowish between costa and subcosta from base of wing to origin of vein 7, base of both pairs of wings and narrow margin of hindwings black.

Length of forewing 17 mm. Expanse 39 mm.

Hab.—Villarica, Paraguay, April 1923 (F. Shade coll.).

30. *Pheia pseudelegans* sp. nov.

♂. Nearest to *elegans* Druce, but patagia and tegulae entirely orange and the abdominal central spots are much smaller, basal fifth of subcostal area entirely orange, tarsi of fore and middle pairs of legs black, hind pair with tibiae black and tarsi white.

♀. Similar but larger.

Length of forewing ♂ (type) 14 mm. Expanse 31 mm.

 " " ♀ 16 mm. " 35 mm.

Hab.—3 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀ (♂ type) Alto de Serra, Sao Paulo, February 1923–April 1926 (R. Spitz coll.); 1 ♀ Ypiranga, Sao Paulo, April 1924 (R. Spitz coll.).

31. *Pheia insignis* sp. nov.

♂. This is a very distinct species. Head and palpi black; pectus white, legs black, with a considerable quantity of white on inside of tarsi and tibiae; ♂ valve pure white; abdomen below black, frons and vertex with paired bluish white dots; antennae black, apical two-fifths white, with black tip; thorax, patagia, and tegulae brilliant orange; abdomen brilliant orange, with median row of black dots, last two segments blackish steel blue; wings hyaline, forewing base bright orange, rest of wing edged with black, expanding largely at apex and slightly at tornus, nervures black; hindwing with black margins and nervures.

Length of forewing 14 mm. Expanse 31 mm.

Hab.—1 ♂ Alto de Serra, Sao Paulo, March 1928 (R. Spitz coll.).

32. *Pheia fuscicorpus* sp. nov.

♀. Closely allied to *daphaena* Hmps. and *haemapleura* Hmps. but differs at first sight by the entire lack of red colour. The body is entirely black; the patagia and a streak on the tegulae orange and some orange hairs at anus.

Size same as *haemapleura*.

Hab.—Minas Geraës, November 1929 (R. Spitz coll.).